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PRESIDENT PROSTITUTES HIS POWERS

CHINGLEPUT DISTRICT BOARD

LOCAL BOARD CLERKS FORCED TO BE SALE AGENTS OF HIS PAPER

(By "A Lover of Purity in Public Life")

Lovers of purity in Local Board administration will be shocked and stunned when they hear of the strange ways of the President of the Chingleput District Board. There are innumerable things in the Pandora's box of Mr. M. K. Reddi which, if let loose, will poison the atmosphere of Local Board politics. Public life will smell and politics will stink if the contents of that box are revealed in all their entirety and fullness. I shall not attempt to open the lid today and create room for complaint by sanitary engineers and health officers. I leave the task to others who have had a peep in and can describe things in a better manner than I can do.

I shall only give for the information of your readers a curious procedure adopted by the Chingleput District Board President to push up the sales of "The Sunday Chronicle," of which he is the Honorary Editor. A wireless telegraphic message tells me that every Sunday, packets of fifty or sixty papers are sent to the members of the clerical staff of the Chinglepet District Board and that of some Local Boards under the jurisdiction of Herr Hitler of Chingleput.

Hitler's word is law and his rule a tyranny in the Chingleput District. He says to the Local Board clerks, "Hark ye! you fellows! Every week, you will be getting a packet of the paper of which I am the Honorary Editor. Each packet will contain fifty or sixty papers. Your duty is to sell them in the respective localities you live in, and hand-over the sale proceeds to me. Particularly you fellows of the Trivellore Taluk Board! You must exert yourself fully and sell each copy you get. I may tell you that your Manager has also undertaken to be a sale agent of my paper. My word is not a request but a command. If you don't sell the papers, or give this or that excuse, well, you get the sack and wend your way homewards. If you are not able to sell some copies, you will have to pay the money from your pocket. What I say you obey. If you don't sell you will go hell. Remember and pay heed to my warning. I am the monarch of all I survey in the Chingleput Dt. and my right none dare dispute, and my orders none dare disobey."

After his speech, there is a murmur of resentment among the poor clerks, who never in their lifetime imagined that they would become newsboys selling Sunday papers. They would well like to give a wordy or more forcible slap on the face of their President, but they will lose their jobs. Particularly in these days of unemployment, they must be careful to retain their present means of livelihood. And so it is that they allow themselves to be forced to become the sale agents of Mr. M. K. Reddi's paper. The servants of Local Boards, I think, should never be used for other purposes. If Mr. M. K. Reddi wants to appoint agents he has got the money from Tanjore and Chellapalli which can be made use of. Why should he force the Local Board employees to do a thing they don't like, and thus prostitute his position as the President of the District Board and misuse the powers he has got? If tomorrow he becomes a nightsoil contractor, would he force all his clerks to become scavengers? If he becomes the head of a hair-dressing—saloon as a side activity, would he force his clerks to learn shaving and waving and shampooing? If he indulges in T. P. activities, would he force his clerks to bring the necessary materials for it?

This is a shameful and shameless state of affairs. It is disgraceful and demoralising. The sooner it is put an end to, the better. I make an appeal to Mr. M. K. Reddi to desist from tyrannising over the poor clerks, and turn a new leaf. I know my appeal would fall on deaf ears.

Robinson was the champion borrower of the district, and one of his chief victims was his neighbour, Jones. One day Jones, goaded beyond endurance, knocked Robinson down.

When the latter had recovered, he called on Jones.

"Well, what do you want now?" demanded the latter.

"Does that first-aid book of yours say what to do for a black eye? If so, can you lend it to me for a few moments?" asked Robinson, mildly.

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The young man who had been calling so frequently on Helen came at last to see her father. Finally, the suitor made this announcement: "It's a mere formality, I know, but we thought it would be pleasing to you if it were observed in the usual way."

Helen's father stiffened. "And may I inquire," he asked, "who suggested that asking my consent to Helen's marriage was a mere formality?"

VICTIM OF CHAIN GANG SLAVERY!

"WORSE THAN DAYS OF UNCLE TOM'S CABIN"

London (By Mail)

Robert E. Burns, the world's most famous chain gang victim, who has riveted the attention of the world upon his case through the medium of the film in which Paul Muni plays the part of the escapee, is not the only fugitive from this terrible form of slavery.

In a room in the East End of London (writes a "People" reporter) I spoke with one of these men.

He is a hardy British sailorman, upon whose frame the cruelties of the chain gang bosses have left their indelible mark.

Let's call him Jak Regan.

For he firmly believes that publication of his real name would set the agents of the gangs at work to track him down, and that the fact that he had spoken out would make him a marked man should he ever enter Georgia again.

"The chain gangs are a worse form of slavery than anything that existed in America in the days of Uncle Tom's Cabin," he said.

"I've had some—and I know.

"I was arrested for train-jumping, myself and a negro companion. And I was sentenced to ninety days with the gangs working on the turpentine plantations.

"That ninety days was the most awful experience I ever had in my life.

"I was chained up to a man who was diseased. And for days I lived, with my companions in the gang, upon a sparse diet of beans and rice.

"Hour after hour we worked upon the job of extracting the turpentine from the logs, and any attempt to ease up was rewarded with a kick and a storm of curses.

"I have seen men beaten almost to death and left to recover as best they could, exposed to the bitter cold upon the permanent way of the railroads they had been working on.

"I know for a fact that men have been arrested for the 'crime' of talking to a negro woman in a speakeasy and sentenced to terms with the gangs.

"The method by which men are pressed into this grim system of slavery is in itself sheer barbarity.

"Prisoners arrested for various offences are frequently taken before a magistrate. Before their appearance in court they have been searched, and any money found on them confiscated

"They are heavily fined and, having no money to pay, they risk imprisonment.

"Then a man in court steps forward and says he needs labourers, and offers to take the 'offenders' on.

"And a day or two later the unfortunate victim discovers that he is a member of a chain gang, working from sunrise to sunset in conditions that would revolt the lowest types of humanity.

"One night I managed to file through my chains and make a bid for freedom.

"I got away, but I nearly starved to death in the swamps where I lay hidden for days and nights.

"A negro and his wife gave me shelter and I managed to make my way back to New York."

PEER'S GIRL AND POSTMAN

ELOPEMENT ROMANCE THRILLED SOCIETY

Liverpool, (By Mail)

Grand-Daughter of a peer's only daughter who eloped with a postman on the day she was to be taken to London to be presented at Court, Mrs. Catherine Whitehead, May-field-rd., New Ferry, recalled the romance that thrilled Society in the days of George the Third.

Mrs. Whitehead was celebrating her ninetieth birthday when I called at her little home. She has just retired from the business of catching, boiling and hawking shrimps, which she has followed for 80 years.

"Gracie Bagot, my grandmother, was the only daughter of Lord Bagot, of Ruthin Hall," She told me.

"She could have picked and chosen among the wealthy beaux of her day; but Gracie had given her heart to Peter Evans, the village postman."

The marriage was in 1770. "It was a great blow to Lord Bagot, but all his pleadings for his daughter's return were in vain," added Mrs. Whitehead.

"The only souvenir of her old home that she took away was a little mirror that had hung in her dressing-room. And there it is!" Mrs. Whitehead pointed to where it hung on the wall.

FRENCHMEN MAKE THE BEST HUSBANDS

Paris (By Mail)

The Frenchman is described as a model husband, better than the husbands of all other nations, by an authority in Paris. "Criticised on all sides," it says, "he is in reality the pearl of husbands.

"Who is it, these days of domestic crisis who makes the coffee in the morning before leaving for the office?

"Who is it, who pushes the pram to the park on his day off?

"Who is it that always smiles willingly when he hears the words, 'You won't forget, when you pass the ironmonger's to—'?

"Who hands over all his pay without keeping back a half-penny?

"Why, the French husband—" God bless him!

SUBMARINE SAFETY.

EVEN IF DISASTER COMES, THERE IS STILL A CHANCE OF ESCAPE.

The Submarine Service has always been considered the most dangerous in the Navy, even in times of peace. But it is now safer than ever before.

Two things are responsible for this change. The first was the adoption, about three years ago, of the Davis artificial "lung," a special life-saving apparatus for use by submarine personnel. The second is the new escape hatch, with which all our submarines are now being provided.

The escape hatch is fitted in the fore compartment of the submarine, and is flush with the hull. Underneath it, is a collapsible canvas trunk, which forms an air lock when it is released and in position.

In the event of disaster the crew will make their way to the forward compartment, and close the watertight doors behind them. Then when the trunk has been made ready, the first man will enter it, open the hatch, and escape. The others follow one at a time.

TESTED IN POSEIDON DISASTER.

They will, of course, be wearing the Davis apparatus, which consists of a mouthpiece, from which a flexible tube leads to an oxygen bag strapped to the chest. Air breathed out passes back into the bag, where the carbon di oxide in it is absorbed and replaced by oxygen. It can then be breathed again.

When this device was tested out in 1929 it was found that a man wearing the "lung" would shoot up to the surface from a depth of twenty-one fathoms—126 feet—in a minute and a quarter. It was then decided by the Admiralty that every man in the Submarine Service should be equipped with the apparatus.

Unfortunately, it wasn't long before the value of the "lung" was tested in the circumstances of an actual submarine disaster. When the Poseidon was sunk in Chinese waters in 1931, following a collision with a steamship, it proved its worth by saving the lives of Chief Petty-Officer Willis and a number of other members of the crew. (Answers).

HEARING YOUR FACE!

TURNING BEAUTY INTO MUSIC

Cleveland (By Mail)

There is music in a perfect profile, Dr. Miller, Professor of Physics at the Case School of Applied Science, transforms the curves of a profile into sound waves.

A strange contrivance—he calls it a Phonodeik—literally makes vision audible as it detects every defect or fine point of human features.

Before an audience of music teachers in Cleveland, Dr. Miller gave a demonstration of his machine by exhibiting the profile of a screen actress.

He explained that the "purity" of the curves in her face resulted in a corresponding "purity" of sound—a major chord perfectly attuned.—Reuter

"LONGEST" WORD

"PARSEC" MEANS 19 MILLION MILLION MILES

London (By Mail)

Astronomers, men who think and talk in terms of "million millons," have to do it so often that they have invented a word of their own to save time. When an astronomer uses the word "parsec" he means nineteen million million miles.

This was one of the interesting facts revealed by Sir Frank W. Dyson in London when he addressed the members of the School of Nature Study Union. One nebula was so distant that light from it took just one million years to get here.

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EXIT MIGHTY DOLLAR MILLIONAIRES

RESULT OF FINANCIAL BATTLE

The great British American fight for financial control of powerful world industries is now after years of battle, reaching a climax.

And Britain—which a few years ago seemed to be losing all along the line; losing so badly that an American writer could produce, with some show of justification, a jubilant book entitled "America Conquers Britain"—is winning.

When, the other night, after weeks of potent negotiation, a group of weary men, headed by Mr. Philip Hill, the British financier on the one side, and on the other, by Mr. L. K. Liggett, head of the big American Drug Stores, Incorporated, sat back in their chairs with between them a contract for the resale to British control after twelve years of Boots Pure Drugs, the retail chemists with a thousand shops, something of historic importance took place.

It is true that the actual completion of the deal was temporarily postponed owing to the Chancellor of the Exchequer's ban on the export from London to New York of the £ 8,000,000 purchase price.

But the historic moment remains, and its significance will not lessen as time passes.

There was a time when it seemed possible — nay, probable — that, one after the other, the great British industries would fall under American control just as the power of the dollar was giving into American hands great industries in Germany, in France, in Italy and elsewhere.

Now the tide has turned. Under stress of depression, the United States is being forced to sell back the great business concerns bought in the flush of victory a few years ago, when in American ears it was blasphemy to suggest that United States prosperity would ever slacken, and that the power of Wall Street would not grow and grow until the United States ruled the greatest financial empire the world had ever seen.

In the jubilation which accompanied the first war boom, American financiers and industrialists turned their attention particularly to Great Britain.

To control British industries was a matter, not only of profit, but of prestige, for Britain had long been recognised as the financial and industrial leader of the world, while her investors owned enormously valuable industries in countries all over the world.

A CLEVER FIGHT

The United States bankers wanted world recognition. They wanted it speedily and they saw that the quickest way to get it was to fight British finance on its own particular ground, and win control of British industries themselves.

Moreover, they knew that British business, backed by British workmanship, was capable of making very substantial profits.

The Boots deal—the forerunner of the much bigger American invasion which was to follow, just as its resale to British interests is one of the first portents of the changing position—had taught them that.

By that deal, Mr. L. K. Liggett obtained, for under £ 2,000,000, a property which consistently makes profits in the neighbourhood of £ 800,000 a year.

The American invasion was carefully planned, and cleverly fought, and it had as ammunition the immense wealth the United States had gained from the war.

FAR-REACHING DOLLARS

In one year alone, 1928, when the American penetration of European industry was at its peak, United States financiers and investors sent abroad the colossal sum of £ 400,000,000 or well over £ 1,000,000 a day. By the end of that year its total investments abroad had reached the staggering figure of over £ 3,120,000 000.

In that year American finance scored also some of its most resounding successes in the British field.

It gained control, among other industries, of the largest electrical manufacturing undertaking in the country. Associated Electrical Industries, a combine controlling assets valued at over £ 15,500,000 and merging the British Thomson-Houston Co., Metropolitan Vickers Electrical Co, Edison-Swan Electric and Ferguson Pailin, Ltd., which between them controlled some eleven large electrical manufacturing companies.

Electrical development was in the air, the great British grid scheme for cheap electricity supply under the Central, Electricity Board had got under way, and in Chicago an American financier, Mr. H.L. Clarke, head of the gigantic Utilities Power and Light Corporation, seized his opportunity for what he conceived to be a further smashing and profitable victory for United States finance.

He started to operate in London at first with the greatest secrecy through a private company called the Greater London and Counties Trust, Ltd.

And gradually, by private negotiation and by purchases of shares in the open market—purchases whose real source was often carefully concealed at the time and only revealed later—he gradually acquired control of one electric supply company after another.

So secretly did he work that it was not until his campaign was nearly over in 1928 that British finance awakened to this development.

By then he had acquired control of more than eighty British electricity companies supplying more than 500 cities and towns in England, Scotland and Wales, and serving altogether an area of round about 14,300 square miles with an estimated population of 4,300,000.

THE MASTER STROKE

Shropshire, Worcestershire, Herefordshire, Oxfordshire, a large part of Hampshire, the whole of Cornwall and part of Devon and Dorset, Glamorgan, Staffordshire, Cambridgeshire, much of South Wales—all these it was discovered would in future receive their electric power from American owned concerns.

Truly Mr. Clarke had planned his campaign with the genius of a financial giant.

There was an angry outburst in the City—heated questions were asked in Parliament, and an investigation into the deal was made by the British Government.

At the end of it, Colonel Ashley, the then Minister of Transport, was forced to inform the House of Commons that so long as the companies were officially operated no action could be taken

But Mr. Clarke, of Chicago, was astute enough to realise that public opposition was not going to do his companies any good.

He countered that opposition by a move of remarkable cleverness He sent ambassadors to London to find a well-known British public man to take over the nominal chairmanship of the Greater London and Counties Trust, so that national susceptibilities might be satisfied.

And his ambassadors succeeded in persuading the late Lord Birkenhead, then Secretary of State for India, to throw up one of the greatest offices under the Crown to accept the chairmanship of this American-owned Trust at a salary, it is understood, of well over £ 20,000 a year.

Money was nothing to Mr. Clarke and his associates just then. They could pay well, and they did. Even those who merely arranged the first introduction with Lord Birkenhead received several thousands for their services.

A little later the British Character of the Board was still further strengthened by the appointment to a directorship of another great Conservative Cabinet Minister. Sir Austen Chamberlain, formerly Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

And in Chicago Mr. Clarke received the congratulations of his colleagues on his brilliant aud successful attack on British industry.

The congratulations, it is true, have worn a little thin, for it has been realised that in quite a number of cases the slow-witted (as the Americans thought them) owners of the enterprise bought had sold to Greater London and Counties Trust, at very high values, properties upon which a large amount of capital must be spent if ever they are to be really profitable.

And instead of having money to burn, the Clarke interests in these days have found it necessary to try to get back some of the money they spent in the boom years of 1927-28.

They have done so by a public issue of shares in Edmundsons Electricity Corporation, the chief subsidiary, though so far they still keep voting control.

But in 1928 the American invasion was at its height, the United States was to buy up the world, and in the months that followed one after another British businesses fell under American control.

A large part of the flourishing amusements industry was by then under American control. The rich Gramophone Company — makers of His Master's Voice machines and records—was owned by the Victor Talking Machine Company of America, controlled in its turn by the gigantic Radio Corporation of America.

THEY BOUGHT BRITISH!

In films, American interests were, if anything, even more extensive through the Fox interests in the Gaumont-British Picture Corporation, which controls close upon 350 theatres and kinemas, together with large film-producing concerns—though in this case American share ownership did not actually give voting control.

Not only were businesses operating in Britain itself purchased, but virtual control of important British owned industries overseas was obtained.

By a deal with the Mond Nickel Company, the International Nickel Company was formed to control practically 80 per cent. of the world's supply of nickel and large supplies of copper also.

In South America the American International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation obtained control, through a deal running into many millions of pounds, of the United River Plate Telephone Co., which had for more than forty years been in British hands.

A little later the Guggenheim interests of America negotiated an even bigger deal, whereby all the nitrate-producing companies of Chile—the huge majority of which had been British hands from their inception—were merged into a new

(Continued on page 10)

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Telegraphic Address:—"SUITINGS," MADRAS.

THOUGHTS AND HABITS HOW TO GUIDE THEM ARIGHT

A PARABLE OF SEA BIRDS

There is a great rock in Wales which is known to the countryside, and to naturalists all over the world as the Bird Rock. It is so called because vast numbers of cormorants and other seabirds nest upon it.

But the question arises; Why should this particular rock be so designated—and so well known—when there must be hundreds of other crags and cliffs round the world's coasts where these birds build their nests and rear their young? It is no unique thing that seabirds, including cormorants, should build upon a rock. It is their habit to do so.

Now, let me tell you something very interesting. This rock in Wales is not on the shore. It is about three miles inland and it is said to be the only inland crag in the whole world where cormorants nest! To be sure it is within sight and almost within sound of the sea. But between it and Cardigan Bay lies a great V-shaped flat bounded by mountains and the bird to reach the sea, which is their natural habitat must fly quite a distance.

But there is a reason for most things in Nature. It may long elude the investigator. but eventually it will yield up its secret to patient thought and careful consideration. Naturalists were long puzzled to find the reason why these birds, year after year, from time immemorial, had chosen to build upon a rock which was not on the shore, when all their race elsewhere built as close to the waves as they could.

They knew very well that birds are the most conservative of all created things. No one would ever expect a thrush to line its nest with wool instead of mud. It would startle the whole ornithological world if a bird were to depart from its traditional style of nest architecture. If a skylark were to make its nest in a tree instead of on the ground the correspondence about the strange occurrence would run to volumes.

Well, what about these Welsh cormorants? Had they held a sort of Parliament, sat in high debate, and said: "Look you! Let us be original. We have been stereotyped in our procedure too long. Here is a comfortable and commodious rock, much less subject to the buffeting of storms, much less disturbed by the crash of breakers than those which our race usually choose Let us depart from hoary tradition, the tradition of our remote fathers, and make out nests away from the sea?"

Of course not; yet the fact remains that apparently they have departed from tradition. And why? Because they did not originally leave the sea; the sea left them! And the poor birds are so wedded to old ideas and customs, that they never seem to have tumbled to the fact, but still stick to the old rock which once was beside the sea and is now far inland.

As you look towards the mountains across the great flat you can see how, ages ago, it was probably a vast estuary and the Bird Rock was, if not a rocky islet, at least washed at its base by the tides of a thousand ages. It was then that the cormorants first resorted to it, and thither they resort still.

Therein I read a parable. What a lot of human cormorants there are about, dear old stick-in-the-muds, who still think the world is what it was when their grandfathers were in their cradles, who still do the same old things in the same old way, who have let the tide of reality ebb far out from where they live and move, and who are quite content to lag behind the great army of progress which is on the march to new fields of conquest.

Perhaps one cannot expect a bird to adjust itself to new conditions, to change its habits in conformity with new ideas and conditions, but it is up to you and me to move with the times, to get out of the old ruts on to the new arterial road of swifter and more certain advance.

A thing is not necessarily good because it was good enough for our grandparents. We must progress or die, ever freshening and renewing our minds with new conquests of thought, ever expanding our hearts with bigger concepts of humanity and love, ever exploring the ocean of new and unguessed knowledge which, as Newton said, lies before us.

I remember, as a boy, being tremendously impressed by a poem by a great American writer. One of the verses still rings in my mind to-day:

"Build thee more stately mansions,
O my soul,
As the swift seasons roll!
Leave thy low-vaulted past!
Let each new temple,
nobler than the last,
Shut thee from heaven with a
dome more vast,
Till thou at length art free,
Leaving thine outgrown shell by
life's unresting sea!"

That is the spirit in which we ought to live; for that is the spirit which distinguishes man from the beasts of the field and the jungle—and from the cormorants of the rocks and waves.

(Answers.)

THOSE DREAMS OF YOUTH

AMBITIONS OF PRIME MINISTERS

THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY'S CONFESSION

The Archbishop of Canterbury made an interesting confession the other evening. At one time, he said, his ambition was to become headmaster of one of our great Public schools.

He also seems to have dreamed of winning fame as a novelist. At any rate, while still a young man, he published a story, a copy of which is in Mr. Hugh Walpole's library.

"I did not imagine that anyone still possessed it," remarked Dr. Lang, when told of this. "I have not even a copy myself."

It would be interesting to compare the early ambitions of some of our great men with what they have actually achieved. Mr. Ramsay MacDonald, for instance, at one time wanted to become a scientist, but a breakdown in health put an end to his dream.

Mr. Baldwin doesn't say much about his early ambitions, but so far as one can gather what he has really wanted more than anything else, all through his career, is to retire to Worcestershire and keep pigs. But duty has always come between him and his dream.

BRINGING OFF THE "TREBLE"

King Edward seems to have had a somewhat similar secret ambition. He once told Lord Morley that he would have liked to be a landscape gardener.

Of course, there are some people who achieved the things they aimed at from the beginning. The late Lord Rosebery was one. He dreamed of becoming Prime Minister, winning the Derby, and marrying the richest woman in Europe—and did all three. Disraeli also dreamed of the Premiership—but he also wanted to win fame as a poet.

This idea of poetical laurels has attracted many other young men—among them the late Edgar Wallace. He actually had a volume of verse published, under the title of "Writ in Barracks." The poems were written while he was serving in the R.A.M.C. It was not until some years later that his first thriller appeared.

"HAVE you a speaking acquaintance with the woman next door?"
"A speaking acquaintance? I know her so well that we don't speak at all."

"LET me tell you, young man, I've forgotten more than you ever knew!"
"I say, that's bad. Did you ever try tying a knot in your handkerchief?"

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RANDOM REFLECTIONS

(By "Gossip")

AN IMPARTIAL VOTE

Interesting and probably sensational revelations will be found in the book of memoirs entitled "Souvenier of Claudine" which the famous French actress Polaire is just finishing runs a news item in a leading foreign journal. One of the chapters in the book deals with the auctioning of her treasures in her house at Agay, on the Rivera, by the French fiscal authorities to recover a sum which she says "I did not owe them." Other chapters which she thinks may necessitate comments deal with a theatre manager, a French politician, and another personality "who was more than President of the Republic."

"I do not spare any one in my book" says the author, "not even myself." This last sentence which throws much light on the frank and bold stand taken by the actress Polaire in her revelation of men and matters reminds me of the "Sunday Observer" with its bold and frank exposition of things as they are and the work of cleansing the political field of the fogies and 'Ashada Boothies.' I know that within a few weeks of its birth the "Observer" was the target of many a shaky bullet and a subject matter of much impotent wrath. But the unbiased opinion of many is, it is needless to say, that the paper, within the short time of its appearence, has revolutionised the journalistic world in this presidency by its very bold writing about many of the "dolls and the showmen" on the political stage. The other day when I met an old friend of mine who is an admirer neither of the "Observer nor of the "Chronicle", both of which are in their infancy, he was frank enough to admit that that if he were asked to cast his vote between the two, he would certainly cast his vote in favour of" "Observer" for its clean cut methods of exposition.

CITY BOTHERS IN THE MAKING

In Washington there is a shop where a customer could have his appearance changed from that of a tramp to a Beau Brumell, said a freind of mine who had spent many years in America for his "B. D" He can, my friend said, have a hair-cut, shave, shampoo and his nails manicured. And while he is in his bath his clothes are dry cleaned. pressed and repaired; his shirt, collar and under-clothing are washed, dried and mended; while his shoes are cleaned and resoled and his hat reblocked.

This reminds me of the happenings at the Mahajana Sabha Hall, Mount Road, on sunday last. The "tramp shop of Mount Road" as it might be truly called, was the venu of a tea party of a set of "worthies" who were the honourable guests of His Majesty the King Emperor recently. Though invitations were extended to about 20 persons of their ilk, I am reliably informed that only 11 persons turned up for the repast. When in their cups these "Youths," as they call themselves, are said to have decided to form themselves into a new party to be named as the "Young Municipal Party." The readers will be interested to know that the "worthies" who have foresworn to bring forth a new party in a few weeks or months as it could be necessary, have determined to oust "Samis, Shaffees and Satyamurthies" from the Municipal Council, not to speak of the members of the other schools of political thought and capture all the seats. I wish the new champions of the citizens' cause would not only capture seats alone, but every dust bin in the city not excluding the drainages and cesspools. The passport to the portals of the city corporation and to the confidence of the tax payers of the city, these "worthies" seem to think are their short stay within the walls of His Majestey's "Guest House" for having stood mute in front of some shop dealing in foreign cloth or for having shouted some slogans here and there. "Juvenising" the Corporation is the watchword of these eleven I am told. The new party in the making within the four walls of the Mount Road "tramp shop" are hoping against hope to work miracles in the city, True to its name the "tramp shop" of Mount Road could turn out from within its walls, not city fathers as the citizens well nigh know for certain, but city bothers. The taxpayers of Madras I have no doubt will be really thankful to the "eleven" for this timely warning of the coming "bothers".

TAKEN AT HIS WORD

Whenever any blunder was committed in printing, people used to call it "printers' devil" I very often used to wonder whether the printers really deserve to be called, "devils" for slight errors. But surprisingly such errors though quite unintentional on the part of the printer, are no doubt capable of creating much mischief and annoyance to the party concerned. There are many instances of printer's devils in which a mere change of a letter has created many a writer to stagger at the atrocious meaning brought about by the printer's devil. I remember a funny incident which occured recently when a Vakil friend of mine on his visit to Madras went to a printer at Broadway to order some visiting cards. After taking down his name, as my friend was in a hurry to catch the train, the printer asked "And the address, Sir", to which my friend replied in a hurry "Oh, merely Trichinoply".

When the cards arrived, hundred of them neatly packed, there was the address in the left hand bottom corner "Merely, Trichinoply'.

A MADRAS SNAKE IN THE ASSEMBLY

(By "Realist")

It may be within the recollection of our readers that during the Legislative Assembly debate on the Railway Budget the question of representation of Muslims in the Railway Services formed a subject of heated discussion. Apart from the reasonableness of the claim of Muslims as also of Hindu non-Brahmins in the Railway Services and for the matter of that in all Services the question for consideration for us is the mentality of a snake from Madras towards the cogent reasons indicated by Dewan Bahadur A. Ramaswami Mudaliar while he was supporting the cut motion for the purpose of bringing home to the House the imminent necessity of giving one representation to all communities in the Services. When Mr. A. Ramaswami Mudaliar was refuting the view of Myaw Myint regarding nationalmindedness, he pointed out in a convincing manner that no vicious principle was suggested by demanding representation of all communities in the Services, as such a principle was in force even in the self governing dominions and colonies in South Africa, France and Canada, and that as such, the demand for communal representation in our country is not an innovation. Mr. Ramaswami Mudaliar finally suggested that a separate Public Services Commission for recruitment for Railways with staff councils to avoid any discontent in the matter of promotions must be created if the happiness of India is to be ensured.

There rose the snake from Madras Mr. Ranga Aiyer with a roaring refutation of Mr. Mudaliar's scheme that it would lead to national solidarity, and enunciated astounding formulas that Mr. Mudaliar's suggestions would only mean a demand for another communal award and would aggravate the reaction that already exists in Services a hundredfold. Mr. Aiyer draws an analogy that in England where there are Jews and Catholics there had been no communal representation and adds that the rotation system preached by Mr. Mudaliar had created enough mischief in Madras, and even does in Greece and Rome where freedom was retained by suppression of communalism. Any how Mr. Aiyer definitely expressed that the suggestions of Mr. Mudaliar would lead not to nationalism but only to disruption.

This kind of running straightaway to Greece, Rome and England for opposing the demand for communal representation on the ground that it would mean national disruption we have always been quite conversant with ever since the initiation of the non-Brahmin movement in Madras. The cry of nationalism in danger is a shibboleth always prevalent in this province whenever the interests of brahmins, the custodians of real nationalism, are to be adversely affected. But Mr. Aiyer has forgotten the elementary fact that in no other country in the world is there any community as the brahmin community the existence of which in this province finally led to the organisation of a recognised non-Brahmin movement in Madras. I really think that Sir Henry Gidney was perfectly justified in having humorously characterised Mr. Aiyer as a snake and Mr. Mudaliar as a snake charmer, while he repudiated the attack on Mr. Mudaliar and testified to the services rendered by him at the Round Table Conference for which the country should be grateful. We are really grateful to our accredited representative Dewan Bahadur A. Ramaswamy Mudaliar for having in his own inimitable language espoused the cause of the non-Brahmins of Madras.

THE FREE THINKERS ASSOCIATION

GENERAL BODY MEETING

(From a correspondent)

Madras March, 10

A general body meeting of the Free Thinkers' Association was held at Vani Villas, 76, Harris Road, Mount Road, on Thursday at 6 P. M. when the question of developing the Cult of Free Thinking was discussed and the ways and means chalked out.

The President in opening the proceedings of the meeting observed that the youths are the symbolic expression and the main prop of a nation which can rely for its development and progress only on the younger generation. As time passes the main responsibility of carrying on any living thing naturally falls on the shoulders of youths. But if the youths are not to be properly equipped with impartial, and independent views on matters affecting the interests of the country as well as themselves, they cannot take the share of their responsibility and discharge it in the best interests possible. Ratiocination should give place to blind following and before one plunges deep into active line of work one should know the consequences and repurcussions of such a move. The world is ever changing. It is not static and it cannot be static. We have also to change with it.

We have been made only to follow from cradle to the grave. There are some accepted principles, some laws and some codes which have been kept ready for us. We are not allowed to deviate or to change or even to think apart from these. This intolerable situation only leads to stagnation and I would say even to permanent death. No doubt in the rising generation there is a new desire, there is a quest for a right type of knowledge which, shakes the very plant of human society. We should expand it and should enter into a new era where the play of intellect and the power of reasoning and a common adjustment based on mutual understanding will be the binding factors of life.

After a few remarks from the members, questions were answered and the election of office bearers took place Mr. H. D. Rajah was re-elected, President, Mr. E.V.S. Maniam as Vice-President, and Messrs. G. Loganathan, and P. Pattabi Raman as Joint Secretaries.

THE "LAUNDRYMAN" ABROAD

As the "Laundryman" is still on tour collecting dirty linen, the "laundry" will remain closed for this week also.

Ed. S. O.

INTERVIEWS WITH GANDHIJI AND OTHERS

MR. M. S. ANEY REFUSED PERMISSION

(Associated Press)

Poona, March, 11

In reply to his enquiry over telephone, Mr. M. S. Aney, Acting President of the Congress, was informed by the Superintendent of the Yerawada Jail that he (Mr. Aney) could not be permitted to interview Mr. Gandhi, and others.

Mr. Aney had sought permission to interview Mr. Gandhi, Sardar Vallabhai Patel and Mr. Gangadharao Deshpande, co-prisoners, with Mr. Gandhi, jointly or severally. He was informed that he could not interview any one.

Mr. Aney leaves this place for Nasik 'enroute' to Berar tomorrow morning.

He had informal conversations this morning with local leaders, including Mr. N. C. Kelkar, with whom he stays.

Asked if he intended to seek the permission of the Government of India for interviewing Mr. Gandhi, Mr. Aney said that, at present, he had no time to seek permission and await a reply.

RELEASED FROM MULTAN JAIL

MR. AHMED SAEED NAZIM

(Associated Press)

New Delhi, March, 11

Information has been received here that Maulana Ahmed Saeed Nazim of Jamiatul-ul-ema, Hind, was released to-day from the new Central Jail, Multan.

ANTI-COMMUNAL LEAGUE

TWO WEEKLIES AND A DAILY TO BE PUBLISHED

(Associated Press)

Lahore, March 11

With the object of pushing forward its programme for the eradication of communalism in all shapes and forms, the Anti-Communal League will shortly issue from Lahore an Urdu daily and two weeklies, one in English and the other in Urdu, all under the direct patronage of Dr. Mohamed Alam.

MRS. KAMALA NEHRU

(Associated Press)

Allahabad, March, 11

Mrs. Kamala Nehru returned from Patna to Allahabad to-day. She is looking quite well and cheerful. She proceeds to Dehra Dun in a few days to see her husband.

NOTICE

All contributions and articles should be addressed to the Editor, the "Sunday Observer."

Contributions should be written only on one side of the paper. Those who desire the return of their articles in case of non-publication should send a stamped and addressed envelope.

All communications addressed to the Editor should bear the name and address of the writer for authentication.

Contributors are requested to be brief and to the point, owing to the limitation of space.

EDITOR

THE SUNDAY OBSERVER

SUNDAY, MARCH 12, 1933.

GOVERNMENT'S ARMY POLICY

THE GOVERNMENT DEFEAT IN the Legislative Assembly on Mr. Yamin Khan's cut motion criticising the Indianization policy of the Government, is a further indication of the disappointment and dissatisfaction felt by the Indian public at the very slow, half-hearted and indifferent attitude of the Government in speeding up Indianization in the Army. The speeches of non-official members and the decision of the Assembly constitute a vote of censure on the Government. It is a great pity that, in spite of constant and repeated protests by Indian public men, the higher services in the Indian Army should continue to be the monopoly of British officers. The Round Table Conference recognised the principle that the defence of India must, in future, become the increasing concern of the Indian people. But, if the Government go on following their traditional policy of slow and gradual evolution, Indianization cannot be contemplated at least for a century more. These circumstances cannot be viewed with equanimity by Indians who desire to have as complete a control over the Army as is possible in present circumstances. One other matter that formed the subject of keen criticism at the hands of popular representatives in the Assembly was the enormous military expenditure. Retrenchments may come and retrenchments may go, salaries may be cut and salaries may be restored, but Indian military expenditure does not show any appreciable decrease. Whatever may be the criticisms of non-officials and experts in military finance, the Army Department goes merrily on spending money lavishly, and the taxpayer protests, and pays.

THE LAW MEMBER

WHILE CONGRATULATING THE Hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nair, the Law Member to the Government of Madras, on the extension of his term of office, we wish to inform him in all humility what the public think of him. There has been of late an impression gaining ground that Sir Krishnan Nair has been conducting himself in a manner which would create suspicion in the minds of the public. Everybody expected that Sir Krishnan Nair would be equitable and just towards the legitimate aspiration of the Non-Brahmin communities, but there has been a great disappointment. With regard to the various appointments he has made, he has not been quite fair. This, at any rate, is the opinion of many who have followed his official career as Law Member. We admit that it is an exaggerated opinion which we do not share. Still we must confess that Sir Krishnan Nair has given room for misunderstanding his administrative policy. We trust that at least in future he will not give room for any complaints that he has shown a blind eye towards most Non-Brahmin communities. We still believe Sir M. Krishnan Nair is not a man who will kick the ladder by which he has risen, although many entertain the opposite view.

WE INVITE THE ATTENTION OF our readers to the interpellations in the Madras Legislative Council yesterday on Chingleput District Board affairs, which are published elsewhere. The highly autocratic administration of the present President, his reckless disregard of the ordinary decencies of public life and his tyrannical treatment of Local Board employees have disgusted all decent citizens in the Chingleput District. Soon after he became Prisident, he began to show his innate pettimindedness by dismissing nearly 40 clerks, overseers and peons whom he supposed to be the supporters of the previous President. Under plea of retrenchment, he has sent away senior and efficient hands and retained unqualified, junior and inefficient hands, some of whom are stated to be relatives of some of the members of the District Board. Petitions and memorials have already been sent to the Government by the aggrieved employees. But under the present rules, there do not seem to be any likelihood of speedy redress or early justice being done. The public in Chingleput District and outside have been resenting such unfair and unjust interference in Local Board administration. It may be perhaps too much to expect the present President to turn over a new leaf and mend his meandering and crooked ways, but still we would like to express the hope that he would change for the better at least in future.

WE WERE AMUSED TO READ THE editorial effusion of our vituperative contemporary, "The Sunday Chronicle," last week, criticising Mr. A. Ramaswami Mudaliar's attitude. The "Chronicle" says that Mr. Mudaliar has pleaded for communal representation in the Railway services and at the same time is interested in the formation of a party on non-communal lines, and therefore accuses him of inconsistency. Even the elemen tary idiots of the imbecile group which is represented by the "Chronicle," have admitted times without number in the past the necessity for communal justice, and they have always claimed to be "nationalistic" in their outlook. We can point out to our unintelligent contemporary that there is no inconsistency in the attitude of Mr. Mudaliar. His efforts to create an all-India party on non-communal lines are worthy of appreciation, and he deserves the thanks of the public for his patriotic venture.

Chingleput District Board Affairs.

ALLEGATIONS AGAINST PRESIDENT

INTERESTING QUESTIONS IN LOCAL COUNCIL

Madras March, 12

The following questions were answered in the Madras Legislative Council yesterday :—

Questions.—Mr. C. Basu Dev: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether the President, Taluk Board, Saidapet, complained to the Government against the present President, District Board, some time ago for throwing the furniture of the taluk board outside the office premises; if so, the orders passed thereon?

A.—Early in August 1932, the Vice-President in charge of the Saidapet Taluk Board reported to Government that the President, District Board, Chingleput, entered without notice the Taluk Board Office situated in the Panagal buildings and with the help of his peons cleared the records, furniture, etc., to the adjoining portion of the room throwing the records etc., into confusion and requested Government to accord sanction under section 227-A of the Madras Local Boards Act, for action being taken against the President, District Board, in a court of law. The Government did not see sufficient reason to comply with the Vice-President's request.

TRANSFER OF A MIDWIFE

Q.—Mr. C. Basu Dev: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the President, District Board, Chingleput, transferred a midwife from Tiruvottiyur Panchayat Board to Valarpuram without consulting the President, Panchayat Board, Tiruvottiyur, contrary to the orders of the Government;

(b) whether it is a fact that the President, Panchayat Board, Tiruvottiyur, reported about this to the Government and that the President, District Board, was directed by the Government to cancel the order of transfer.

(c) whether in spite of the Government Order, the President, District Board, failed to cancel the transfer order; and

(d) if so, what action do the Government propose to take?

A.—(a) Yes. (b) Yes. (c) & (d) The Government have no information.

INSECURITY OF SERVICE OF EMPLOYEES.

Q.—Mr. C. Basu Dev: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received petitions or memorials from the employees of the Chingleput District Board whose services have been dispensed with after the present President took charge of his office; and

(b) what special measures the Government propose to adopt to ensure the permanency and security of services of the employees of the Board?

A.—(a) Yes, from certain employees, against termination of services.

(b) The rules relating to punishment of local board servants issued by Government already provide for safeguards against arbitrary punishments by the presidents of local boards.

BOMBAY AMBULANCE CORPS

SIR FREDERICK SYKES' TRIBUTE

ACTIVITIES DURING CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE MOVEMENT

(Associated Press)

Bombay, March 11.

"Renewal of civil disobedience movement, although it did not produce as serious disturbances as its predecessor, still provided some opportunities for you to display the efficiency of your training and the readiness with which you always come to the assistance of your afflicted fellow-citizens in such circumstances. This time, however, the Civil Disobedience movement was dealt with, I am glad to say, with comparative ease, that the disturbance which it brought about soon ceased to have any serious effect upon the City," declared Sir Frederick Sykes, the Governor of Bombay, while addressing the Bombay Corps of St. John Ambulance Brigade Overseas, on the occasion of annual inspection and prize distribution.

His Excellency added: "I have indeed come to look upon this inspection as an annual landmark. The excellent service you have done during the period of Bombay riots last year has, as you say, been recognised by a resolution of my Government, and I will only say how glad I am to have the opportunity of associating myself personally with the sentiments contained therein.

His Excellency concluded "I am very sad to reflect, as I speak to you all here today, that this is probably the last time that I shall have the privilege of inspecting your Corps, and it must also in a way be an occasion of my taking an official farewell of you. I assure you however I shall not lose interest in your welfare activities and shall always look with keenest attention for news from Bombay.

EX-KING ALFONSO

(Associated Press)

Hyderabad (Deccan) March 11

Ex-King Alfonso who arrived here on March 6th, accompanied by the Duke of Miranda and Prince Juan, left for Bombay this evening.

GANDHIJI FOR JOINT COMMITTEE

REQUEST OF A BOMBAY MERCHANT

(Associated Press)

Bombay, March 11.

Mr. H B. Manaji Rajuji, President of the Deccan Merchants' Association has sent the following telegram to H. E. the Viceroy:—

"On the eve of the publication of the White Paper, we again strongly urge upon the Government the desirability of making an effort for settlement, as Mahatmaji has already expressed willingness to make a pronouncement on the political situation. The Government, on their part, should provide an opportunity by presenting to him, if possible, an advance copy of the White Paper. We further expect the Government to make the first move towards settlement by extending an invitation to Mahatmaji for the Joint Parliamentary Committee. We note with regret that interview had been refused to Mr. M. S. Aney. But we decline to believe that this is due to any unwillingness for settlement."

WHITE PAPER AND HINDU MAHA SABHA

WORKING COMMITTEE MEETING ON 26th MARCH

(Associated Press)

New Delhi, March 11.

A meeting of the Working Committee of the Hindu Maha Sabha will be held on the 26th March to consider the White Paper. It is also proposed to hold a Joint Conference of members of the Working Committee, Hindu members of the Central and Provincial Legislatures and other Hindu leaders before the end of the session of the Central Legislature, and submit decisions reached thereat for ratification to the special session of the Maha Sabha at Haridwar during the Ardkunba fair in the middle of April.

A policemen was so puzzled by the behaviour of a baby car that he signalled to the driver to stop.

"Are you aware, sir,' he inquired, "that your car keeps leaping into the air?"

"Yes," replied the motorist. "It's quite all right. I've got the hiccups."

Safeguarding Peace of the World

EFFORTS TO SAVE DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE

DISCUSSIONS AT GENEVA

(British Official Wireless)

Rugby March, 11

The Prime Minister and Sir John Smon arrived at Geneva from Paris this morning.

Mr. Anthony Eden met the Ministers and informed them of the developments at the Conference during the past few days. Later in the morning Mr. Arthur Henderson, Chairman of the Disarmament Conference, called of Mr. Ramsay Macdonald and discussed with him measures necessary to effect concrete decisions with as little delay as possible.

Earlier this morning, the Prime Minister saw Doctor Benes, Rapporteur of the Conference, and arrangements were made for other visits during the day from M. Bourquin (Belgium) Chairman of the Effectives Committee, Baron Aloisi (Italy) and Hugh Wilson, United States

It is recognised that immediate measures are necessary to save the Disarmament Conference and the attitude from which this problem was viewed during yesterday's Anglo-French conversations in Paris was sufficiently indicated in a phrase in the Official Communique that the urgency of the Geneva problem, especially in relation to the actual European situation was fully recognised by the Ministers, who declared themselves determined to see an agreement with representatives of other States on all means of safegua-rding the peace of the world.

UNIQUE HOSPITAL IN INDIA

WILLINGDON HOSPITAL FOR WOMEN AT LAHORE

COUNTESS OF WILLINGDON'S OPENING SPEECH

VICEROY'S CAMP

(Associated Press)

Lahore, March, 11.

The following is Her Excellency the Countess of Willingdon's speech on the occasion of the opening of the Willingdon Hospital for Women at Lahore to-day:—

Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen:—Thank you very much indeed for the sincere welcome you have given me. I find it extremely difficult to express adequately the pride and gratitude I feel to-day in accepting the invitation that has just been extended to me on behalf of Lahore and the Punjab to open this great building that is to bear my name.

You have referred in very kindly terms to the services I have happily been able to render for the womanhood of India. In response, let me assure you that you have to-day greatly encouraged me in my work by associating my name with such a splendid hospital fitted-up, as His Excellency has just told us, with so many appliances which modern science now provides to alleviate the lot of those who are in need of medical care and comfort.

The picture His Excellency the Governor has drawn proves that a long-felt gap this Hospital will fill and, from the account of the special features of its equipment, I am confident that this gap could not have been filled with greater care and forethought. In fact, I think we can one and all endorse His Excellency's opinion that the Hospital is unique in as far as Hospitals in India are concerned.

Approximately twelve lakhs of rupees have been expended to make the project perfect and upto date in every practical detail, and the unqualified success that has attended the execution of the complicated plans merits our heartiest congratulations to all concerned. Even a health centre to train nurse "dais" has been provided, thanks to the munificence of Rai Bahadur Amar Nath, but were I now to extol all the outstanding qualities of the scheme, my deep interest and enthusiasm would probably carry me right beyond the limits of the time for which I am expected to speak. So I think it would be wise to reserve my remarks till I have the pleasure of going round the building myself.

The number of cases treated during 1932 is proof of the solid foundation upon which this Hospital will start its carreer of utility. It will, I am sure serve other than purely local needs and, as years go by, its sphere of influence will increase steadily. For my part, I wish it every possible success in the future. Indeed, I feel that its future is assured, and I am certain that it will play a leading part in creating greater happiness for the women and children of Lahore and the Punjab. When I look back, as I often shall in the years to come, on this visit to Lahore, I shall never fail to think of this building that bears my name and of the work it will be doing in alleviating sickness and suffering amongst those who seek succour within its walls.

Your Excellency, Ladies and Gentlemen. I have the greatest possible pleasure in declaring the Willingdon Hospital for Women open.

DEBATE ON INDIAN WHITE PAPER

EXPECTED TO LAST THREE DAYS

(British Official Wireless.)

Rugby Mar. 11.

The debate in the House of Commons on the Indian White Paper, which was before the Cabinet yesterday, will be raised on a motion for setting up a Joint Select Committee to consider the proposals it contains.

Newspapers anticipate discussion which will range over a wide field and will extend over three days.

A similar resolution will later be discussed in the House of Lords.

OLD MAN OF 55 AND GIRL OF 11

MARRIAGE PREVENTED IN MEERUT

MONETARY CONSIDERATION ALLEGED

(Associated Press)

Allahabad, March 11.

The District Judge of Meerut has granted an interim injunction on the application of the Child Marriage Prevention Society restraining an old man of fifty-five from marrying a minor girl of about eleven.

The complainant alleged that the mother was giving the girl in marriage for monetary considerations.

ANGLO-ARGENTINE BUSINESS

SCHEME TO RELEASE BLOCKED FUNDS.

(British Official Wireless)

Rugby March 12.

"The Times" City Editor states that arising out of the conversations between the Argentine Trade Mission and the Board of Trade on the subject of 22 large funds belonging to British Companies at present locked up in Argentine, owing to exchange restrictions, a Committee of six men prominently identified with the Anglo-Argentine business has been formed to devise a scheme for freeing these blocked funds.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE

RESTRICTIVE EFFECTS AMERICAN CRISIS

(British Official Wireless.)

Rugby, March 11.

There was again little business passing on London Stock Exchange this morning, American crisis and uncertainties of the political outlook in Central Europe having restrictive effects. The tone however was again steady. British funds were generally well-maintained.

ENGLISH BUILDING SOCIETIES

REDUCTION OF MORTGAGE INTEREST

(British Official Wireless.)

Rugby March 11.

Five big building societies whose assets total over £ 112,000,000 and whose mortgage represent about £ 100,000,000 announce reduction of mortgage interest by half per cent. per annum with the minimum basis charge 5½ percent. on mortgages completed before September 1st, 1932.

RS. 2,500 REWARD

FOR CAPTURE OF ABSCONDING CRIMINALS

(Associated Press)

Calcutta, March 11.

A reward of Rs. 2500 has been declared by the Government for information leading to the arrest of each of the three persons who have absconded after making a murderous attack on the life of Mr. A. W. Luke, Superintendent of Rajshahi Jail, on 18th November last.

SOUTHAMPTON DOCK CHARGES

EFFECT OF REDUCTION

(British Official Wireless)

Rugby Mar. 12.

Following the reduction in dock charges for ships calling at Southampton, it is understood that the Companies General Trans Atlantique, whose headquarters are at Havre, have decided that, during summer, its express vessels which at the present time, call off Plymouth are to be transferred to Southampton on the West bound journey and like chief vessels of Horddeutacher and Lloyde are to be accommodated at berth, probably in the new docks now nearing completion.

BOARD OF TRADE

RETURNS FOR FEBRUARY

(British Official Wireless.)

Rugby Mar. 12.

The Board of Trade Returns for February show imports valued at £ 49,077,444 representing a decrease on previous month of £ 5,046,428, Exports were valued at £ 27,927,687 a decrease of £ 1,277,735 compared with the January figures.

A comparison with the figures for February last year shows that imports have declined by £ 21,098,653 and exports by £ 2,063,865.

THE REGO MURDER CASE

ACCUSED ACQUITTED

JUDGMENT OF JUDICIAL COMMISSIONERS

(Associated Press)

Nagpur, March 11.

In the Rego Murder appeal the Judicial Commissioners, Messrs. Niyogi and Staples, pronounced judgment today acquitting both Mrs. Rego and Scrowston on a charge of murder of Mr. Rego.

Their Lordships held that, no doubt, there was ground for suspicion of murder, but there was not sufficient evidence to sustain a conviction. Much of the evidence given by witnesses was influenced by the initial fact that every one in the neighbourhood was in a frame of mind to attribute the murder to the unfortunate friction of Mrs. Rego with her husband and her scandalous intimacy with soldiers, particularly Scrowston. The Police themselves were not satisfied with the veracity of witnesses during the course of the investigation.

A close analysis of the whole evidence results in establishing a powerful motive on the part of the appellants and gives grounds for suspicion against them, but beyond this point, it is impossible to press for a conclusion and bring home a charge of the crime against the appellants with any reasonable certainty. The evidence leaves room for reasonable doubt of their guilt.

CRIMINAL BREACH OF TRUST

ANGLO-INDIAN YOUTH GETS 1 YEAR R.I.

(Associated Press)

Allahabad, March 11.

Mr. Ray, Special Magistrate, sentenced Terence Plunkett, an Anglo-Indian youth, to one year's rigorous imprisonment for criminal breach of trust in respect of a bicycle hired from Colonel Gunge Cycle Agency and sold to a bearer in Grand Hotel for Rs. 30/-.

LORD AND LADY WILLINGDON

LEAVE FOR DELHI

(Associated Press)

Lahore, March 11.

Their Excellencies the Viceroy and the Countess of Willingdon attended the Race, today, and presented the Willingdon Cup to the winner.

Their Excellencies left tonight by special train for Delhi.

GOLD EXPORTS FROM INDIA

MORE THAN 80 LAKHS IN ONE WEEK

(Associated Press)

Bombay March 11

The total amount of gold exported this week amounted to the value of Rs. 81,44,305.

SITUATION ON THE FRONTIER

ALL QUIET ON NORTH-WEST FRONT

(Associated Press)

Peshawar, March 11.

The situation at Matun remains unchanged. Reports from reliable sources state that Wazir Lashkar attacked the forts in the neighbourhood of Matun on the night of 7th-8th March and 8th-9th March, but with no success. Lashker's present position is now reported to be two to three miles south and west of Matun. Regular Afghan reinforcements, accompanied by large numbers of tribal levies, have reached Chakmani approximately twenty miles to north of Matun.

As a result of His Excellency the Governor's warning to theJirgha, some 260 Mahaud and Wazir Maliks have left for Khost with the object of recalling their tribesmen. The situation along the North-West Frontier remains quiet.

PASSING SHOW

By "JAI BHARATH."

Pan-Islam.

Nabha, Kashmir, and Alwar. I wonder which is the next Hindu state that is to lick the dust. If religious susceptibilities were wounded in Kashmir, it was an economic question in Alwar. The Nation has been following with great perplexity and not a little anxiety, the downfall of some of those ancient Hindu Kingdoms during the last few years. I say designedly, Nation, because I feel every right-thinking Muslim also will share the opinion, if he has got the interests of India at heart, that these deplorable events ought not to have taken place. The ancient history of "fire and sword" seems to have been repeated in a milder form, all in the hope of a glorious pan-Islamic Federation. The "sick-man of Europe" seems to have changed his venue to the East.

The child of calamity.

The trivial spark that set the conflagration in Kashmir with far-reaching consequences are too well known to us. Though the grievances of Meos in Alwar have far more substance, yet the agitation that was set up was most deprecatory and the results far more serious than in Kashmir. I am not holding a brief for our Indian States who are ruling in the same autocratic way as they were doing in the twelfth century. But the prestige of Alwar has been brought to such a level, that it may well nigh be a half century before it gets again full ruling powers. The "Special Officer" is only a synonym for iron chains cleverly concealed in velvet. Under these circumstances, it will not be a wonder, if the Maharajah takes a quiet holiday in one of these lovely chateaus in the suburban districts of France, like the romantic Holkar, but under different circumstances. I hope that now at least our Muslim brethern will awake to a proper sense of their responsibilities to the land in which they live and give up dreams of pan-Islam.

Pan-Germania.

The world's eyes are once more rivetted on the affairs in Germany. The phenomenal rise to power of Herr Hitler the removal of gold standard in U. S. A. and the sanguinary feud between the members of the same Mongolian race in the Far East, have given rise to various speculations as to the future of international politics. While ideas of democracy are rapidly being assimilated in the East, the West is setting behind the clock of progress. Monarchies yield place to Republics only in name, but in reality to Dictatorship of one individual. The Il Duce of Italy is the Czar in another form. Herr Hitler is his counterpart in Germany. Their speeches, their methods and their organisations are alike. Both lay claim in their broadcast speeches to a "place in the sun" Stalin is the potential dictator in Bolshevist Russia. The war-weary world is looking aghast at the fiery activities of these dictators. The so-called democratic elections in Germany are a farce. The suppression of papers, "the preventive detention" of deputies, and the invasion of private houses by "Storm Troops" are events which far eclipse past tyrannies. The unparalleled private that is being imposed on western democracies by these Dictators, the intolerable loss of individual freedom it entails, are lessons that are writ large for those who may care to read. They are also indications of the path of Revolution into which they are drifting. We may however hope to be spared the suffering the world underwent in 1914 if pacifists assert and organise themselves early enough.

"The India we saw"

This is the title of a book written and published by the Hon. Edward Cadogon, a member of the famous White Commission. When a member of the Simon Commission, with incessant travel and with the greatest opportunity of acquiring first-hand knowledge of India and its political conditions, blunders egregiously in his conclusions, no wonder an American lady like Miss Mayo, with a superficial survey of things, falls into a bottomless pit. Our politicians, from the highest to the lowest, are described by Lord Cadogan, as men of empty fluency, practical impotence and impractical day—dreaming. The press is portrayed as irresponsible and inflammatory and the dumb millions as illiterate and unconcerned in politics. The perverse mentality disclosed by such ebulitions are almost incredible. Such "die hard" writings are necessary to awaken the self-respect of India.

MADRAS HINDU MAHA SABHA

TODAY'S MEETING

Madras March, 12

A meeting of the members and sympathisers of the Hindu Maha Sabha will be held under the auspices of the Madras Hindu Mahasabha, at the premises of the Servants of India Society, Royapettah, at 6 p. m. on Sunday the 12th instant, to consider the question of the necessity or otherwise of holding a special session of the All-India Hindu Mahasabha soon after the publication of the white Paper on Indian Constitutional Reforms The question of inviting the Hindu Mahasabha to hold the session in Madras, if it is decided to hold it, will also be discussed.

Mr. C. Vijayaraghavachariar, President, All parties' Conference, will address the meeting with a view to ascertain public opinion in Madras regarding the special session.

Her daughter was in love with a jockey, and had persuaded the old lady to see her *fiance* ride.

The mother took up her position near the rails, and when the horses flashed past and disappeared, she snapped her mouth like a clamp.

"You ought not to marry that fellow," she said, acidly. "I dislike a boor. I told him to look out for me, and when he passed he never even raised his cap."

GENEVA FARCE UNMASKED

Within the League two schools of thought, we're told,
Two rival theories of its task unfold.
One, thinking "safety first" the surer game,
Takes pure conciliation for its aim;
The other urges it to arbitrate,
Then brings strong pressure on the guiltier State.
But now, this little friction with Japan,
Has brought to birth a third, and subtler plan,
Combining, by a happy inspiration,
At once coercion and conciliation.
A "formula" is found which recommends
The aggrieved and the aggressor to be friends
Should both of them refuse, the veriest dunce
Will own we can't conciliate both at once;
While pressure is more easily applied
Not to the guiltier but the weaker side.
Yet something must be done; for we should strive
To keep "the League machinery" alive
For show, if not for use; so we prepare
A document that, with impartial care,
Conciliates the wrong door, by pursuing
A polished reticence towards his wrong-doing;
Then, if he still object to our report,
Rewrite it as may please him best—in short,
Grant the offender to coerce the Court;
And keep the League "in being" at the cost,
Of nothing, so to speak, save honour lost

Mac Flecknoe in the New statesman and The Nation.

"Friend of yours, that chap who nodded?"
"Yes, cousin twice removed—once from a public meeting and once from a public-house."

SALEM DISTRICT BOARD PRESIDENTSHIP

MRS. SUBBAROYAN'S REPLY

A REJOINDER

(By "Searchlight")

I have read with close attention Mrs. Subbaroyan's reply to my remarks about the Salem District Board, published in "The Sunday Observer" of March 5. I am sorry that my remarks should have been construed as an attack on women in public life. If I have wounded in any way Mrs. Subbaroyan's feelings, I would like to apologise. Far from attacking her or her sex, my only object was to draw attention to the fact that, right in the centre of his own district, the Leader of the Opposition in the Local Council has failed to make a favourable impression, and that the result of the Salem District Board presidential election has shown the extent of his personal, and incidentally his party, influence. The fact that Mrs. Subbaroyan did not stand as a party candidate is, to my mind, of not much importance, but I do not think any one can dispute the fact that all opponents of the Justice Party in Salem District ranged themselves on the side of Mrs. Subbaroyan, actively worked for her and left no stone unturned to achieve her success.

Personally speaking, I would have welcomed her success and rejoiced at it. I am of opinion, and I know that that opinion is shared by many in the province, that there have been few women in Indian public life who have commanded so much personal regard and esteem among all political sections as Mrs. Subbaroyan. I may also add that similar is the feeling with regard to Dr. Subbaroyan. Whatever may be his political principles or personal views, everybody likes him, and loves him.

There is one point which Mrs. Subbaroyan has completely ignored in her reply to my article, and that I think is the main reason for her misunderstanding. It would be remembered that my article was a reply to "The Sunday Chronicle" effusion. "The Chronicle announced that "Bobbilism bit the dust" because at Tanjore and Coimbatore Justice partyman suffered a reverse. I only said, "What about Salem?" I only pointed out the other side of the picture.

I am sorry that in the concluding portion of her reply, Mrs. Subbaroyan has brought in a remark which is not quite relevant. She says, "I am aware that the women's cause has still many diehard opponents in our country, and it will be no surprise to me if members of the Justice Party are among them." If she has pondered a little deeper and observed things a little more closely than she seems to have done, she would have found that if the women's cause has got many advocates, the strongest of them are in the Justice Party. If Madras has led the world by electing a lady as the Deputy President of the Legislative Council, it was the Justice Party which was responsible for it. When members of Opposition groups were busy canvassing for the Deputy Presidentship for candidates of their personal choice or liking, it was Mr. P. T. Rajan who proposed the name of Dr. (Mrs.) Muthulakshmi Reddi, and had it carried unanimously. If to day there are women in Municipalities, Taluk and District Boards, Educational Councils etc. a great portion of the credit, if not all, should go to the Justice Party. I do not mean to say that there are none in the Justice Party who oppose the women's cause. There are a few conservative cranks still who think that the women's place is the kitchen. They are growing fewer and fewer in number. To generalise on this slight basis reflects no credit either on the sense of fairness or discernment of Mrs. Subbaroyan, and I think I will leave it at that.

GREETING TO "SUNDAY OBSERVER"

Dr. G. R. A. Acharya, M.C.P. & S., L.S. M.F. Consulting Physician and Surgeon, 60, Sundaramurthy Vinayagar Koil Street, Triplicane, Madras, writes:—

Your editorial of "Laundry wash" is splendid. No expression in any language to congratulate you to that extent to which it should be deservingly done. I congratulate you most heartily on your bold venture. May God help you to burn the candle of Truth, which is co-eternal.

Y. M. C. A. VOLLEY BALL TOURNAMENT.

EGMORE FRIENDS UNION WINS

(From our sporting correspondent)

Madras March, 12

The volley ball Finals was played yesterday evening at Y. M. C. A. between Egmore Friends Union and the Corporation Play ground, Park town, The Egmore Friends Union won 1st and the 3rd game, giving 9 points respectively to the Park Town.

HOUSE RAID IN ALLAHABAD

POLICE SEIZE CONGRESS LITERATURE

(Associated Press)

Allahabad, March 11.

The Allahabad Police made another raid on a house in Muthegunge, which was suspected to be the centre of Congress activities. They broke the lock of a room and seized a quantity of Congress literature.

No arrests were made.

SEVEN YEARS' WALK HOME

BUT LOOK AT THE DISTANCE!

Belgrade (By Mail)

It has taken him seven years to walk home!

Nikola Bunjanin has just arrived after tramping from the shores of Lake Baikal, on the border of Irkutsk, Siberia, to his home village, Graberja, near Petrinja, where he found that:—

He had been declared dead 15 years ago.

His estate of six acres had been sold;

His cottage had fallen to pieces; and

His fiancee had married long ago and was about to become a grandmother.

Nikola left his home village in 1911 to serve in the Austrian Army. He was taken prisoner by the Russians, and for 18 years he remained in a remote part of Siberia.

Seven years ago he began, on foot, the journey back to his native place. Begging or working to keep himself on the way, he came across Russia and Turkey to Istanbul. Then via Bulgaria, Rumania and Hungary.—Reuter.

CARTOONIST'S DEATH.

CREATOR OF FELIX THE CAT DIES IN POVERTY

London, (By Mail)

Mr. Pat Sullivan, the Australian cartoonist, who created Felix the Cat, died in America, aged 45.

At the height of Felix's fame about 2,000 cinemas a week in England alone were showing Sullivan's animated cartoons. It was estimated that over three-quarters of the population of the world had either seen the famous cat or knew him by name.

Mr. Sullivan died in comparative poverty in New York, where once he had lived in luxury.

The Single and the Married

Moderation and Self-Control

A FEW HEALTH HINTS

To every man, whether he be married or single, there must come, at some time or other, a mind query as to whether he is conducting his sexual life in a way best suited to his physical and mental self and to the advantage of the community at large—both, of course, being factors of equal importance, writes T. W. Standwell in "Health and strength"

To the married man the question is the more simple. Having become a complete unit of the community, through the taking unto himself of a wife, he is merely acceding to the laws of Nature when participating in sexual intercourse in natural moderation. Very often, however, economic conditions, civilisation's imposed code and a certain uncommon sense, prevent him from regarding his indulgences as no more than the consumption of a wholesome steak—a delightful process, that is both necessary and desirable.

Instead, he becomes conscious of his actions to an unnatural degree, and, as a result, his sexual life, instead of being a desirable, necessary and satisfying pleasure, descends into an action that ultimately preys upon his mentality and wrecks his nervous system. In this connection both the restriction of his sexual activities of over-indulgence have harmful effects.

There is no gauge as to the sexual requirements of man. Each individual must of his own accord determine the extent to which he may exercise his genital organs. A violently palpitating heart causes the man who is running after a bus to fall back—he heeds the warning given, and in such a manner the average man should be able to tell what toll his sexual life is demanding of his whole physical system.

It is, therefore, to be realised that normal or moderate sex indulgence by the married man must definitely ensure that his co-opted life will be sexually prolonged and his functioning powers sustained. There is a wrongful theory often expressed that the newly-married man can physically afford to indulge in sexual intercourse without imposing any restraint upon his appetite, and that he will, as a matter of course, increase his activities in this direction until the zenith of his powers is reached. Then, as time goes on, the strength and ability of his sexual glands gradually decline, until when past the recognised "middle-age" his inclination towards sexual desires will have so far diminished as to be practically non-existent.

CHILDREN TO AGED FATHERS

That this theory is misleading can be proved beyond doubt. It has been repeatedly demonstrated that healthy children are, and have been, born to septuagenarian and to octogenarian fathers. There was, for instance, one such case, a few weeks ago. The father at eighty-five years of age having married a wife of thirty-five and thereby producing a son.

Even if it has to be owned that this is not a common occurrence, there is no actual physical reason why a man, any man, who has regularly conserved his physical or sexual energies, with a due regard for prudence and decency, should not retain his sexual potency to a highly advanced age.

One could, of course, cite the examples of the Biblical patriachs, but I will rest content with one or two historical facts. Ferdinand de Lassops, the engineer, who reopened the Suez Canal, and who was initially responsible for the Panama Canal, married his third (I believe) wife when well over eighty years of age and was presented with a child at the age of eighty-four.

Zara Agha, the 150 odd year-old Turk, who recently toured the world as the "doyen of the human species," has a daughter still living and over seventy years of age, who was born to him when he was over eighty.

"Old Parr," the veteran farm hand, who died in London some 150 years ago and who was, so far as could then be computed, well over 160 years at the date of his decease, was actually sued for the support of an illegitimate child, born when he had passed his 120th birthday. Then some forty or fifty years ago, an English duke, noting that no one of his living sons, although married, seemed likely to provide a son and heir to the family title and estates, married again and produced a son, in order that the succession should continue in the direct line. He was then an octogenarian himself,

THE CASE OF THE SINGLE MAN

So far I have only dealt with the married man, but now a word for the unmarried—the state of being that precludes a man from giving vent to his sexual desires and impulses.

The single man, from the age of adolescence, until he eventually marries has even greater need to gain and maintain complete control over his physical emotions. Consequently, he is beset by every temptation to do other than safeguard his bodily welfare, Normal sexual desires become mentally exaggerated by continual suppression, and unless he be sufficiently strong-willed to withstand this yearning, he is liable to seriously affect, if not injure, his physical and mental constitution.

The young man in his teens, especially the youth, who, through no fault of his own, is suddenly left to fend for himself, often makes the mistake of regarding his sexual life, either too seriously, or, as is more often the case, too lightly. Both are faults that can have only detrimental effects upon the individual, and too often he gleans or half-gleans information—sometimes sheer gossip and sometimes deliberately misleading literary references—that causes him to adopt harmful ideas and fallacious notions. One of these misguided theories I deem it necessary to denounce,

HOW SEX SHOULD BE REGARDED

It has been written, for I have seen it in cold print, that the more a man exercises his sexual organs, the more will they develop and consequently respond. I have seen it expressed that man should, in a manner of speaking, "get into training" these vital parts of his body in order that he may experience the height of their power, just in the manner a weight-lifter might concentrate on the development of any particular group of muscles—and my experience has proved that many unsuspecting and ignorant young men believe this positive fallacy to be true.

Sex in man should merely be regarded as a faculty. We do not interfere or endeavour to accentuate our powers of taste or smell. The ears would never respond to any system of massage and thereby enable us to gain a keener sense of hearing. Over-exercise of the eyes brings about weakness instead of strength, whilst the development of a sense of touch is of little value, except to a professional pick-pocket or a blind man.

The growing youth and the fully-developed young man cannot, under any circumstances whatever, afford to expend his nervous and physical energy through misuse and abuse of his sexual glands. These vital organs have other uses besides supplying the necessary seeds of procreation and when not engaged in restocking, turn their energies in other directions, namely, the introduction of nourishing essences into the blood stream.

Thus it can be easily determined that any form of sexual indulgence that the single man may be tempted to employ, not only lowers his physical vitality, but undermines his nervous strength and leaves him a man in the name sense alone.

EVILS OF SEXUAL INDULGENCE

Nature has, it is true, been singularly lavish in supplying the seeds of procreation. So lavish that men and women might, in certain conditions or circumstances, be almost as prolific as oysters, but this fact does not prove, does not even suggest that any man or any woman can, or could, afford to indulge in the prodigal expenditure of these vital seeds. Indeed, all the available evidence which has been taken demonstrates convincingly that the man or the woman who desires and who enjoys the greatest sum of physical and mental well-being, are those who either through self-govern-ance, or merely by the compulsion of circumstances, spend long periods of absolute continence. There is, moreover, ample evidence that normal men and women who, though free of circumstances, have been debarred from sexual activity, although otherwise committed to periods of strenuous physical activity, amid healthful surroundings and conditions, do emerge from these, replete with sexul potency.

It is consequently an erroneous supposition that the conservation of the seminal stocks will tend to the atrophy of the sex organs and functions.

SEEDS OF MENTAL AND MORAL DECAY

Over-indulgence in-sexual intercourse, or in indulgence of any kind in gratification of sexual appetite, or any personal acts of a sexual nature that an ordinary man would be likely to commit, are most strongly to be deprecated.

Be it understood that I am not now referring to normal and reasonable marital relations, but to artifical, illicis, irregular or excessive indulgence, these inevitably prove disastrous, In the first place, the mind persistently dwells on sexual indulgence and craves for continuous thrills; in certain cases this concentration is liable to become perverted in the cravings for some abnormal extravagance and indulgence. In every such case there will ensue the continuous craving for excitation, and there is the positive danger that voluntary discharges may or will be accompanied by involuntary wastages also. which experience has amply proved, have nothing but disastrous consequences, both mental and physical,

THE CHOICE OPEN TO ALL

As for the allegation there are men and women distinguished for their mental and physical health and well-being, who are yet comparatively weak sexually, I should be glad to receive reliable evidence on this score.

I would express the fact quite differently. There are physically strong and healthy men and women who rate their physical and mental well being far in excess over the mere gratification of their animal appetites. Those men are not comparatively weak sexually. Any failures by them to respond readily to sexual appeals and invitations are due to the fact that sexual indulgence is only rarely attractive, must indeed be fortified by other magnetism. Their attention is but rarely aroused in any sexual or sensual direction. As Einstein has put it, "a system of life built on any basis of sensual gratification, even on such gratification as that of simple comfort, would be sufficient only for a herd of cattle."

A choice of alternatives is open to us all. We may, if we prefer, seek the indulgence of our baser appetites. The gratification of these may provide us with certain pleasurable sensual thrills, for a time, at the eventual cost of gradual physical and mental debility. Alternatively, we can train and develop ourselves to a full mastery of our animal cravings, to a degree which will approach mental and physical well-being. We may, or can, pursue a course which will, by the conservation of our most vital essences and the stimulation of the internal secretion of our seminal glands attain to a mental, moral and physical standard which will prove to ourselves, to others, and most certainly to posterity, that when we do eventually leave this life it will be with the knowledge that we have helped towards leaving it better than when we found it.

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PARSON BELIEVES IN WITCHES

"COMMON SENSE"!

London (By Mail)

I am perfectly certain that there are witches to-day—Both men and women who do a great deal of harm by their practices and bring ill-luck to people.

"I do not consider this is superstition at all, but just common sense. . . . . ."

The Rev. Montague Somers speaking.

He made this striking statement at a meeting in London at which the subject of witchcraft was discussed.

"I do not believe there is a single country in the world in which witchcraft is not believed in to-day," he went on,

"America, France, England—all have their villages where there is sure to be found the original village witch.

"I do not believe that all these witches are in league with the Devil, though I have not the slightest doubt that a number of them are."

Mr. Somers went on to say that in Italy, especially in Sicily, girls jilted by their lovers, still adopted the practice of sticking pins into wax images of the men in the hope that some misfortune would befall them.

The clergyman's views on witchcraft were shared by others at the meeting, and Miss Nancy Price, the actress, actually described a witch she had known in her childhood.

"She lived in a rock cave and had all the things associated with witches—black cat, dried skins, a big cauldron, etc," said Miss Price.

"She used to sell potions to the villagers, and she gave me a charm in the shape of a bracelet made of human hair.

"The witch told me that as long as I kept it everyone I loved would love me in return, and certainly I have always been lucky in that respect.

Rough Stuff

On the day after his first—and last—boxing match, a sad and disappointed man hobbled off to see a doctor. His head was bandaged, his arm was in a sling, his face was a mass of sticking plaster, and he had borrowed a crutch.

"Hurt yourself?" asked the doctor.

Hurt himself! The patient grunted. Of course he'd hurt himself!

"Feel any pain? The patient gave a second disgusted grunt. He couldn't feel anything else.

"Looks as though you've had an accident."

"Oh, no," replied the patient, finding his voice at last. "Not at all."

"Then perhaps," suggested the doctor, "you've been indulging in some rough sport?"

"That's it," said the patient. "I've been blowing bubbles."

* * * *

The Hollywood film director who had lunched very unwisely returned to the studio for an interview with a distinguished author. His visitor was waiting.

The director sat down and took up what he thought was a manuscript, but what, in reality, was the local telephone directory. This he studied gravely for some moments before saying:—

"Say, this isn't a bad li,l tale, but you'll have to cut down the number of characters."

o o o o

While crossing a common an old woman noticed one of those men who go around jabbing a pointed stick into scraps of paper to gather them up.

Stopping beside him, she said kindly,' Don't you find that work very tiring?"

"Not very, mum," replied the man. "You see I was born to it—my father used to harpoon whales."

Not in Order

"George, you may bring me two fried eggs, some ham, a pot of coffee, and some rolls," said a man to the waiter.

"Yes, sir."

His companion said, "You may bring me the same. No, wait a minute; eliminate the eggs."

"Yes, sir."

In a moment the waiter returned.

"Excuse me, sir, but what did you say about them eggs?"

"I merely told you to eliminate them."

"Yes, sir." And he hurried away to the kitchen.

In two minutes he came back once more, leaned confidentially and penitently over the table, and said: "We had a bad accident this morning, sir, and the liminator got busted off, right at the handle. Will you take them fried, same as this gentleman?"

o o o o

"What dae ye think o' oor new meenister?" asked one Scot-of another. "What is he like?"

"Well, he's like this," was the reply. "The other mornin' he met me, and said, 'Come awa' in, Mr. Macpherson, and ha'e a drap.' I went intae his hoose, and he brocht oot a hale bottle o' whuskey, opened it wi' a corkscrew—an' flung the cork in the fire! That's what he's like!"

BUYING BACK BRITAIN FROM U. S.

(Continued from page 8)

£ 75,000,000 combine, the Compania de Salitre de Chile, called Cosach for short, in which American interest was largely predominant.

A COUNTER-ATTACK

Cosach has not been one of the successes of American finance, for now, after only just over two years existence, during which it has made no profits, it is being liquidated by order of the Chilean Government.

Flushed by their seeming success in all directions, the Americans grew even bolder, until there seemed to be grave danger that one after another industry, vital to Britain's well-being would fall into American hands.

So serious was the threat that several British companies were forced to take special action.

Imperial Chemical Industries, the great British combine, created by the late Lord Melchett and Sir Harry McGowan, the present chairman of the company, Rolls-Royce Imperial Airways, the Marconi International Marine Communications, the Royal Dutch-Shell Oil group, and others—all took action whereby only a minority of the shares could by held by foreign owners.

Then in 1929 the antagonism which had for so long been smouldering between British industrialists and American financiers flared up to a quarrel.

Following the deal already referred to, whereby American interests obtained control of Associated Electrical Industries, they conceived the idea of buying up also the British General Electric Company, and thus securing a practical monopoly of the British electrical manufacturing industry.

But Sir Hugo Hirst, chairman of the General Electric, was on his guard.

First of all he got an alteration in the company's Articles of Association, restricting voting power to British holders.

By this move, although 60 per cent of the share capital of the General Electric Company was in American hands, they were unable to control policy.

Then in order to increase British ownership, and safeguard the company still further against foreign control, he proposed to issue £ 1,600,000 new £ 1 ordinary shares which were to be called British ordinary shares, and their ownership restricted to persons of British nationality.

Immediately there were protests from American shareholders and a storm of abuse in the American Press.

FIRST BLOOD

The Americans decided to carry the fight to London, and two representatives, holding power of attorney to act for practically the whole of the American shareholders, rushed to England on the fastest liner they could, warning Sir Hugo Hirst by wireless.

Meanwhile, they were out to fight him to a finish.

They were Mr. Thomas L. Chadbourne, a famous American company lawyer, standing 6 ft, 7 in. in his stockinged feet, and Mr. Herbert B. Swope, a former editor of the New York World, and then a millionaire business man.

They were backed up by the New York Stock Exchange, which prohibited the introduction of all stocks of the New York market until the General Electric quarrel was settled.

In London the negotiations went on almost day and night. Relations grew so strained that representations were eventually made to Sir Hugo in the name of Anglo American friendship.

He still refused to allow American shareholders to subscribe for the new shares, but eventually he agreed, as a compromise, to drop the new issue altogether. He had won his main point. The General Electric Company remained British. It was the first check to American penetration.

Less than a year later there was a second one.

America had watched the growth of the canning industry in Great Britain and decided to take a hand.

The British Can Company was formed, with the backing of the huge American Can Corporation, which operates about 150 plants throughout the United States, Canada and the Hawaiian Islands.

It was freely prophesied that before long it would control all of the British can making industries that mattered, and following the example of Mr. Clarke and the London and Greater Counties Trust, a British public man was appointed as chairman—the late Sir John Ferguson, M. P.—and, ironically enough, the first Empire Free Trade candidate.

But the American Can Corporation had mistaken their men when they thought the existing can manufacturers of Great Britain would be smashed so easily.

Indeed, it was the American-owned British Can Company that was broken in the struggle.

THE LAST BATTLE

The British manufacturers merged into a £ 3,000,000 concern the Metal Box Company, and in just over a year had trounced the American invaders so thoroughly that they were glad to sell British Can, lock, stock and barrel, to the Metal Box Company which they had started out so gaily to overthrow.

Now the wheel has swung full circle. Gradually the Americans are beginning to withdraw from the field which they seemed to survey as conquerors only a few years ago.

Recent big deals are significant.

The first was the sale to British investors of the British Woolworths, the sixpenny store concern which has made phenomenal profits for its original founders.

The second was the Greater London and Counties issue of shares in Edmundsons to British investors. The third, and, perhaps, most significant of all, is the Boots deal.

America, which once was ready to "buy up the world," is now in sore need of money herself.

Our departure from the gold standard and the depreciation in the exchange value of the £ means that her dividends from British companies are less when exchanged into dollars than they were before.

She is growing anxious. Before long we may well see the majority of the British industries, bought during the boom, back in British hands. America has not conquered Britain, after all.

Once again, as so often before, we have followed out our national habit of losing every battle but the last. And it is the last that counts.

—John Bull.

THE LATEST "LEG-THEORY."

Paris (By Mail)

Paris is agog over another "leg-theory"—has a woman more sex-appeal when she wears silk stockings instead of woollen ones? Marlene Dietrich, the German film star, who some time ago insured her legs for £ 250,000, is quoted by a Paris newspaper as saying: "Silk stockings give a woman's leg an elegant appearance. It is impossible to think of a chic woman without a pair of silk stockings. And silk stockings are responsible in a large measure for a woman's sex-appeal.' Maurice Dekobra, author of the "Madonna of the Sleeping Cars," says: "Silk stockings are to a woman what a propeller is to a ship. They permit her to walk in the real sense of the word." A Paris paper has asked its readers for further opinions on this new "leg-theory" controversy.

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DON'T BE "HIGH HAT"

TREMENDOUS TRIFLES

When I was a little boy we used to sing a hymn:

"Little drops of water,
Little grains of sand,
Make the mighty ocean,
And the pleasant land;
Little deeds of kindness,
Little words of love,
Make this earth an Eden
Like the heaven above."

I possibly didn't understand the meaning of it properly, but it has always stuck in my memory. And I know now how much little things count in life. Many a man, for instance, is a great success in business, or in his profession; a big power in his town or even in his country, and yet, for lack of little touches of kindness and generosity and understanding, he is a total failure in his home, and life, in consequence, is not the success he anticipated, writes the Editor of "Answers."

I went into a lovely garden last summer, perhaps the loveliest for its size that I had ever seen. I began to congratulate the master of the house on so perfect a result, but he stopped me at once, and, taking his wife by the arm, he said: "This is the chief gardener." Immediately she denied his assertion, telling me that she was only the under-gardener; that it was her husband who did all the work.

"Yes," he said, "I mow the lawn except when the jobbing gardener comes to do it for me, and I do a bit of digging and weeding, and I tie up the prickly climbing roses and ramblers; but, believe me, it is the little things that make a garden, and my wife is always loving her flowers into beauty. She has the touch that tells. She grows boxes of seedlings and plants them out just at the right time, and she seems always to put everything in just the right place. It is she who makes the garden lovely. I only work."

You know, you can be so busy earning a living that you forget to live, forget to perform those little, unobtrusive duties which soften the hard face of life and make it smile. I went round a huge business house with the proprietor the other day. There were in one big room about a hundred girls, all as busy as a hive of bees.

They took no notice of us as we came into the room, but as we walked round my friend spoke to one and then to another—he knew all their names—and they looked up for a moment with a smile of appreciation and welcome. I said: "You seem a very happy family!" And quite naturally, as though he thought nothing of it, he replied: "Why, so we are! All my people are my good friends, and we never have a spot of bother!"

Well, I remembered that man starting business in a very small way. He had built it up to what I saw in a few years. He said: "All my employees work for me as if the business was theirs." I believe he spoke the simple truth. He had business capacity. He could do big things. But he had learned not to despise the little things which make big things possible.

There's another way of looking at this matter which, I think, ought to bring comfort to many a struggler. I was reading the life of Charles Dickens some months ago. What was the secret of Dickens' greatness?

It was very largely adversity. He had a hard childhood for the most part, and it was while he worked at a blacking factory, or wandered through mean streets, looking for the shop where he could get the most food for the least money, that he unconsciously gathered all his material for tears and laughter, and got to know the odd corners of old London.

"Take care of the pence, for the pounds will take care of themselves" is an old saying, and it is true of more than money. If we look after the seemingly trivial things of daily life the big things will look after themselves.

Parliament may sit in solemn conclave week in, week out, and produce bills bearing upon the most tremendous issues: but if the miner in Durham isn't hewing coal, the riveter at Greenock building ships, the potter at Stoke turning his wheel, the clerk in Threadneedle Street totting up his figures, the girl in Kingsway tapping her typewriter, the stoker stoking his boiler fire—if these and ten thousand other little things are not being done, and done well, all the legislation in the world won't keep the nation prosperous.

PRINCE CHARMINGS IN REAL LIFE

Berlin (By Mail)

The recent marriage of Prince Wolff Heinrich of Stolberg, a member of one of Germany's former ruling families, and Fraulein Irma Erfert, a pretty domestic servant, adds one more to the number of "Cinderella weddings." These royal romances include:—

Prince Erik of Denmark and Miss Lois Booth, a lumberman's daughter.

Prince Lennart of Sweden and Miss Karin Nissvandt, daughter of an accountant.

H. H. the Prince Aga Khan and Mlle Andree Carron, a dressmaker.

Sultan of Johore and Mrs. Brockie Wilson, a Scotswoman.

Ex-Maharajah of Indore and Miss Nancy Miller, an American.

Prince Peter of Montenegro and Miss Violet Wegner, actress, daughter of a London policeman.

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TYRANNY IN A LAND OF DEMOCRATIC FRAUD

LIBERTY DEAD IN THE SPANISH REPUBLIC

IRON DICTATORSHIP
IMPRISONMENTS WITHOUT TRIAL

(A writer in an English Catholic journal reviews present-day conditions in Spain under the Republican Government. He declares that the so-called Constitution is not operative and that the nation is ruled by the despotic ordinances of Ministers, the tools and friends of Senor Azana, the President and Dictator of the nation.)

Only under the hypothesis of some secret influence can one account for the fact that the British public is kept mainly in the dark as to the real happenings in unhappy Spain, under Sr. Manuel Azana's iron dictatorship—for it is nothing less. The Cortes, such as it is, has become, since its more than doubtful birth, the Premier's obsequious instrument.

Such admissions as that Sr. Azana's rule "is somewhat arbitrary" (*The Times*) must have been intended for a bad joke. Of course, there is plainer speaking, but still in an apologetic tone, when the "Liberty of the Press" has been trampled on. Also practical problems, involving money, trade, telephonic communication, etc., receive more frank treatment. The attacks on Christian Education, the sanctity of Marriage, the violation of rights of Catholics to be buried as such, especially when their wills so instruct, are barely hinted at, or, if mentioned are glossed over with sophistries and hypocrisies furnished to correspondents by Sr. Azana's admirers.

Such being daily realities in Spain, attention may usefully be called to a French brochure entitled "La Situation en Epagne—A l'Opinion Civique Internationale." No more damning indictment of the democratic sham, known as the Spanish Republic, under the Azana Ministry, has yet appeared. It should prove the more effective because the "group of Spain's Friends" that issues it eschew party politics and prescind entirely from the religious aspect, which might not make as wide an appeal. It simply appeals to the universal conscience—especially to the League of Nations, institutes and academies of Law and Parliaments of the whole world.

SPAIN HAS NO CONSTITUTION

There is a Constitution on paper, voted by the Cortes, Socialist in tendency, and proudly exhibited by its parents as one of the most progressive in the civilised world. It certainly regulates all sorts of political and individual rights, and piles on safeguards against excesses of public authority.

It is not properly known abroad, however, that this Constitution is not in force, and is, in fact, cancelled by one of its supplementary provisions, the Law for defence of the Republic.

This "Law" is a flagrant and scandalous violation of the Constitution (bad as it is). As a result, in Spain no individual rights exist. The Home Secretary, or Prefects of provinces as his delegates, may suspend newspapers close meetingrooms, political, sportive, or other clubs, imprison citizens, without any process, for indefinite periods and impose residence at a given place within the Peninsula, deport prisoners to spots beyond it, take over businesses, workshops, etc., forbid (orderly) public meetings, and impose fines up to 10,000 pesetas (about £240).

Possessed of these wide powers, the Home Secretary is an irresponsible dictator of Spain; irresponsible because he is entrenched behind the will of a large parliamentary majority that does not represent that of the country as a whole.

JUDGES SUSPENDED

The Executive Government has practically usurped the functions of the Judicature. Sr. Amado, *e. g.*, a judge of Madrid, was suspended for using his lawful faculty of granting temporary release to an accused person, with a caution, proofs of guilt being inadequate. The same happened to a judge of Granada, on a similar pretext. These attacks on judicial independence have spread dismay among Spanish lawyers. (Since the pamphlet appeared, numbers of magistrates have been deposed on flimsiest excuses, and replaced by men more according to Azana's heart.) One judge was accused of harbouring a young "dissolved" Jesuit, who happened to be his own son!

Deportation is a punishment not known to the Spanish Penal Code. No matter! People are deported wholesale on the strength of police reports or information of the swarming paid spies. The unhuman conditions attending the deportations of 138 nobles and gentry, some in delicate health, have already leaked into our Press.

Communists or anarchists, convicted of grave crimes, had previously been deported (and promptly repatriated under pressure from the "Left") in a comfortable liner. The hold of a confiscated German cattle-boat was good enough for the 138. (Twenty-nine of these, we know, have escaped, and have reached Portugal.)

SOVIET INFLUENCE AND FEATURES

Under Azana's dictatorship Spain presents certain Sovietic characteristics—ruthless persecution of those opposed to his rule, denial and contempt for individual rights, aggravated by barbarous vexations, and a collectivist and socialist bent in regard to private property. To these may be added Sr. Azana's military policy, for he is also Minister of War. He has removed capable Army chiefs, and entrusted commands to officers of unknown, or unfavourably known, quality. He has excited ambitions among the under-officers, creating an atmosphere conducive to Soviet ventures.

To complete the picture, Spain's rulers surround themselves with a wealth of personal safeguards unknown during the monarchist Dictatorship. Sr. Azana travels in a motor with the blinds down, preceded by a waggon of police and followed by two more, as well as an autocar filled with formidable "Guards of Assault". Is this not a proof of the fear felt by the directors of the Republic? If they had the nation with them these elaborate precautions would be unnecessary.

Meanwhile, disorders are increasingly rife in the land. Casualties due to disturbances amount to 200 killed and several hundreds more or less severely injured. Properties are raided in various municipalities, and crops destroyed or else abandoned by the owners to the exorbitant demands of the labourers.

The masses, encouraged at times by the authorities, have fired numerous churches and convents, destroying priceless works of art, documents, and books.

Such sacrilegious vandalism is still cronic, and mostly unpunished.

At Seville alone there have been 1,677 strikes in one year, the strikers coming out victorious in all of them save one. The Socialist workers, dissatisfied with the party leaders, are gradually deserting to the Communists or Syndicalists, anarchic or others. These are growing in strength and follow the counsels of Moscow.

WORLD'S SEVEN PERILS

London (By Mail)

Here are the world's seven perils as defined by Canon F. L. Donaldson at a London Missionary Society meeting:—

Politics without principles; wealth without work; pleasure without conscience; knowledge without character; Industry without morality; science without humanity; worship without sacrifice.

He declared that the principle of wealth without work, whether in the working-class dawdler or the idle rich, was non-moral, if not immoral, and chould not be defended.

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The Sunday Observer

VOL. I MADRAS, SUNDAY, MARCH 12, 1933 NO. 4.

NUR JAHAN

A ROMANCE OF THE PAST

(By Mr. P. Y. Seshagiri Rao)

Nur Jahan, the queen—consort of the great Emperor Jahangir was of poor Persian extraction; but her father was a poet of no mean order, and her mother was a no less talented woman. But they were characterised by all the loftiness of noble birth, with manners polished to the most exquisite refinement.

Nur Jahan's maiden name was Mirhunissa "the sun of women." A pretty girl of great personal attractions wonderful symmetry of form, exquisitely chiselled features, guileless nature, of gay and happy disposition, combined with the light of intellect which shone on her innocent brow, she naturally became the object of fondest care and attention in Akbar's household; and thus basking in the sunshine of royal favour she grew up a rapturously enchanting flower of beauty.

Nur Jahan was not merely physically beautiful, but there was also the beauty of the mind and the beauty of the soul mingling with loveliness of form and features in a manner none had seen before.

No wonder Salim, Akbar's heir, fell violently in love with her and asked his father permission to marry her. But this was sternly refused, for it was considered highly objectionable for a heir to a royal throne to seek the hand of a woman with no pretensions to respectability, to be united in holy wedlock.

Here it must be noted that there were, after all, very few occasions on which they met each other. To be accurate, there were only two occasions on which they were brought face to face with each other. The first meeting of Jahangir with Nur Jahan was in the garden of Akbar's palace at a time when the Royal Ladies were holding their "Mina Bazar"—a term which by the way is not explained.

The second occasion on which he met her was in the garden of Mirza Ghias Beg, the father of Nur Jehan who was then known by the name of Mihar-ul-Nissa.

Nor was Jahangir who was then Prince Salim, any the less in personal attractions. He for his own part, was indeed an Adonis of beauty, of elegant appearence, of lofty intelligence, of fascinating manners, and of captivating address.

In fact, they seemed indeed made for each other. Their love would certainly have resulted in the ordinary course of courtship and marriage, but for an untoward accident that she had been married by the Emperor in order to guard against mischief, to one Sher Afghan, the lion slayer, who had accordingly been appointed the Subadar of Burdwan. He was remarkable for extraordinary prowess and was exceedingly popular.

But love is a mad idolatry in which one could sacrifice almost everything, yes, even the hope of heaven itself. In the presence of every difficulty, it would acquire fresh power. And what is there that Royalty could not do? To secure therefore possession of Mirhunissa, Jahangir on his accession to the throne, without the slightest compunction, had her husband assassinated. One would have felt that Jehangir, in resorting to such an inhuman act, must have thought that no act was too desperate, no sacrifice too great, no measure too extreme on the part of one who would seek to gain such a glorious prize.

But Nur Jahan scorned all the advances of her husband's murderer to marry her for four long years. Still he had been paying his addresses to her all this time, and at the end of that period, their youthful love revived, and she consented to marry him. She was at once raised to the eminence of the favourite Queen, under the title of Nur Mahal, which later became Nur Jahan Begum.

"Before I married her" Jahangir has left it on record, "I never knew the true meaning of marriage".

Remarkably clever and intelligent it is no wonder that she had obtained a more despotic empire than any woman had ever achieved over the mind of her husband, very much it must be said, for the good of his Empire. Her father and brother wise and prudent men, were elevated to high rank and position, and by their statesmanlike advice and counsel and that of the Empress, Jahangir's vast empire was governed with justice and humanity.

At an age—for she was only twenty six when she took up the reins of Government—when other Empire rulers gave themselves up to the frivolities and pleasures of life, we find Nur Jahan seriously setting about the duties of administration of the State.

It was a sight for the Gods to see —Nur Jahan sitting in the balcony of her palace, while the officers and nobles of the State presented themselves and received orders from her. Coins were struck in her name and 'Firmans' were signed by her jointly with the King. All matters of State were solely managed by her, and she had absolute control and disposal of all honours and patronage. Indeed, there was nothing which was not in her command and control, and yet she never misused any power.

The well-known magnificence of the Moghal Court, was due to her taste and liberality. She was extremely charitable and most amiable and philanthropic in disposition.

The most beautiful of all royal prerogatives is mercy, and if ever the diadem of mercy sat gracefully upon the brow of any throned lady, it was upon hers.

"Nur Jahan is wise enough to conduct the matters of State" said the Emperor, "I only want a flask of wine and a piece of meat to keep me merry." I feel tempted to make special mention of two of her great qualities of head and heart—I mean her unrivalled generalship and wonderful and skilful hunting.

The unflinching dauntlessness, the exquisite skill and the reckless indifference to danger, which she exhibited in rescuing Jahangir from the hands of Mahabat Khan mark her out as one that could stand comparison with some of the greatest generals of the world.

Her intellect was very fertile, for she was able to discourse on an infinite variety of topics. Indeed her nobly formed countenance was an unmistakable indication of a cultivated intellect, and the loftiest feelings were stamped upon her high open forehead.

Aesthetically, it would seem as if all the Goddesses and graces had sent their brightest charms and most ravishing fascinations to concentrate all their power in that one being whose loveliness and glory, combined with the masculine energy of her character, has for ages been the fertile theme of oriental and occidental poems and romances.

BEGGAR KING DIES A MILLIONAIRE

ORGANISED AN ARMY OF WORKSHYS

Paris (By Mail)

Some years ago his name was on everybody's lips in France because of his generous donations to charities, and people regarded the man calling himself Le Vicomte D'Heraute as a Multi-Millionaire.

But though the wealth that gave him his position was the subject of much speculation, the actual truth is now known for the first time.

"Le Vicomte" is now shown to have been a character that many a writer of fiction would have been happy to create.

Many men have made millions by organising trades, businesses and professions, but the "Vicomte" made his by organising the profession of begging.

It was more than fifty years ago that he started in a small way by getting around him a number of workshys whom he coached in the art of simulating various infirmities.

Subsequently he posted them at vantage points in the streets of Paris, where they could make their piteous appeal to the public for "La Charite."

From each he collected tribute of not less than ten per cent. of their takings, and regularly each night he made the rounds collecting his tribute.

The men dared not withhold payment because they could be denounced anonymously to the police, whose inquisitiveness about their infirmities would bring about discovery.

Gradually the business extended to the provinces, and in the season at Deauville and in the South the carefully trained army of beggars of the "Vicomte" reaped a rich harvest which they shared with him.

He was certainly many times a millionaire, in francs at any rate.

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